

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A device for safely removing the spindle holding the breechblock in the carrier of a howitzer, the howitzer having a set of recoil slide rails to permit the howitzer to kick back when fired, the device comprising:

a frame;

centering means for sliding the bottom of the frame on the recoil slide rails of the howitzer until the frame is centered under the breechblock of the howitzer; and

receiving means connected to the frame for receiving and holding the breechblock while permitting passage of the spindle through the receiving means so that the spindle can be safely removed without the breechblock dropping out of the carrier and causing bodily harm.

2. The device recited in claim 1 wherein the centering means includes:

a plurality of rollers connected to the frame.

3. The device recited in claim 2 wherein the frame is hollow.

4. The device recited in claim 3 wherein the upper parts of the rollers are disposed inside the hollow frame.

5. The device recited in claim 4 wherein the centering means includes:

a plurality of rail guides disposed outside of the frame and covering the lower parts of the rollers for guiding the frame on the rails.

6. The device recited in claim 1 wherein the receiving means includes:

a top plate having a hole for receiving and holding the breechblock of the howitzer.

7. The device recited in claim 6 wherein the receiving means includes
a bottom plate pivotably connected to the frame and having a hole aligned with the hole in the top plate to permit the spindle to pass through the bottom plate.
8. The device recited in claim 7 wherein the receiving means includes:
a spacer plate inserted between and fastened to the top plate and to the bottom plate and having a hole aligned with the hole in the top plate and the hole in the bottom plate.
9. The device recited in claim 8 wherein the receiving means includes:
a stop disposed in the frame to limit the pivoting of the bottom plate.
10. The device recited in claim 7 wherein the receiving means includes:
a safety net attached to the frame beneath the bottom plate to catch the spindle.
11. The device recited in claim 1 in combination with a howitzer.
12. A device for safely removing the spindle holding the breechblock in the carrier of a howitzer, the howitzer having a set of recoil slide rails to permit the howitzer to kick back when fired, the stool comprising:
a hollow frame;
a plurality of rollers connected to the frame for sliding the frame on the recoil rails of the howitzer until the frame is centered under the breechblock of the howitzer, the upper parts of the rollers being disposed inside the hollow frame;
a plurality of rail guides disposed outside the frame and covering the lower parts of the rollers for guiding the frame on the rails;
a top plate having a hole for receiving and holding the breechblock of the howitzer;

a bottom plate pivotably connected to the frame and having a hole aligned with the hole in the top mounting plate to permit the spindle to pass through the bottom plate;

a spacer plate inserted between and fastened to the top plate and to the bottom plate and having a hole aligned with the hole in the top plate and the hole in the bottom plate ;

a stop disposed in the frame to limit the pivoting of the bottom plate;

means for locking the bottom plate in position; and

a safety net attached to the frame beneath the bottom plate to catch the spindle if dropped when the spindle is removed from the carrier and lowered through the hole in the bottom plate, the breechblock being prevented from dropping out of the carrier and causing bodily harm.

13. The device recited in claim 12 in combination with a howitzer.

14. A method for safely removing the spindle holding the breechblock in the carrier of a howitzer, the howitzer having a set of recoil slide rails to permit the howitzer to kick back when fired, the method comprising the steps of:

lifting a stool-like device onto the recoil slide rails of the howitzer,

sliding the stool-like device on the recoil slide rails of the howitzer until the device is centered under the breechblock of the howitzer;

receiving and holding the breechblock on top of the device while permitting passage of the spindle through a hole in the device; and

removing the spindle from the carrier without the breechblock dropping out of the carrier and causing bodily harm.

15. The method recited in claim 14 including the step of attaching a safety net to the device to catch the spindle when it is removed from the carrier.
16. The method recited in claim 14 for also removing the breechblock including the step of raising the carrier and sliding the device out from under the carrier.